

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 827 as passed by the Seventy-Eighth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

I support the intent of Senate Bill No. 827 to provide added protections to individuals who are elderly or disabled. However, the bill's flawed language has the unintended consequence of holding hospitals and hospital staff criminally liable for carrying out a patient's advanced directive to withhold lifesaving treatment. The bill would have provided a defense to prosecution if medical care or food is withheld based on an advanced directive or a living will. However, that defense did not extend to hospitals or their personnel.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea
GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:30 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2003